

AN IMPROVED KISOK FOR 3D DISPLAY

CROSS REFERENCE TO A RELATED APPLICATION

5 The present application is an non-provisional application of our Provisional Application serial number 60/249,354 dated November 16, 2000 entitled "An Improved Kiosk for 3D Display." This Provisional Application is hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates to an improved kiosk for 3D display systems. Specifically, the improvement makes it possible to have a compact and ergonomic kiosk viewing system for multiple viewers.

15 Previous display systems use micro polarizing filters (μ PolTM) for 3D display systems. The following patents describe the use of micro polarizing filters in 3D display systems and are incorporated by reference.

20 An invention by Sadeg M. Faris in US patent 5,327,285 issued on 7/5/94 entitled "Methods of Manufacturing Micropolarizers" teaches the manufacturing of micropolarizers used in the improved kiosk system. US Patent 5,096,520 issued on 3/17/92 to Sadeg M. Faris teaches a method for producing high efficiency polarizing filters. US Patent 5,221,982 issued on 6/22/93 to Sadeg Faris discloses a polarizing wavelength separator. US Patent 5,691,789 issued on 11/25/97 to Sadeg M. Faris teaches a single layer reflective super broadband circular polarizer. US patent 6,034,753 issued on 3/7/00 to Faris et al teaches the use of circular polarizing material have super broadband reflection and transmission characteristics. US patent 6,111,598 issued on 8/29/00 to Sadeg Faris teaches a system and method for displaying spectrally multiplexed 25 images of three dimensional imagery for use in flicker free stereoscopic viewing.

30 Using a μ Pol filter on an LCD for a kiosk display is difficult because special viewing glasses are required. CRT and shutter glasses 3D systems have the same problem. One solution is to hang the glasses on a wire or attach them to a rod in front of the display. This solution only allows one viewer to see the display. Since a μ Pol based 3D stereo flat-panel display has a very large viewing zone in the horizontal dimension, it

is possible to have many viewers on the same horizontal plane viewing a 3D image. This invention provides a compact and ergonomic kiosk viewing system for multiple viewers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The Figure is a perspective view of an improved kiosk as described in the 5 application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is an improved kiosk for a 3D display. A clear plastic or transparent band surrounds a μ Pol based 3D stereo flat panel LCD display system. The radius of the band is designed to provide the optimum viewing distance from all angles.

10 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention is an improved kiosk 100 for a 3D display. A clear plastic or transparent band 102 surrounds a μ Pol based 3D stereo flat panel LCD display system 104. The radius of the band is designed to provide the optimum viewing distance from all angles.

15 Attached to this band are one or more 3D viewing polarized filters 106 at periodic intervals. It is possible to support at least 5 viewers per display. A viewer simply puts his/her head up to the band and looks through the polarizing filters to see the 3D stereo images on the display. For cathode ray tube (crt) shutter based systems, it is possible to embed shuttering filters into the band for time sequential displays. The entire system is integrated into an ergonomic base unit that supports the 3D display and the band (as 20 illustrated in the Figure). The base 108 is fashioned in such a way as to allow multiple units to be attached to form a complete or partial ring of 3D displays (as illustrated in the attached rendering). The 3D display may be include, but is not limited to, a CRT display, an LCD display or a projection screen upon which a 3D image is projected. The 25 projection system may be a front projection system or a rear projection system.

Sensors (not shown) can be placed in the ring or near the display to sense the presence of a viewer and change from the 2D monoscopic display to a true 3D stereo display. This feature will allow a monoscopic image to be used as an attraction sequence and allow the 3D stereo images to be displayed when a user is actually looking at the 30 display. This is important because 3D stereo images are nearly impossible to view and understand when they are not being viewing with the glasses.

Important factors to be considered with the improved kiosk system include: The kiosk supports multiple viewers without the need to manage glasses or have ugly strings/wires/rods supporting the glasses. Additionally the improved kiosk provides viewing at the optimum distance for the best 3D effect.

5 There is an improved ergonomic look of the improved kiosk that includes a viewer sensor that allows monoscopic attraction images to be displayed when viewers are not looking though the ring.

Persons skilled in the art will appreciate that the present invention can be practiced by other than the described embodiments, which are presented for purpose of

10 illustration rather than limitation, and the present invention is limited only by the claims that follow.